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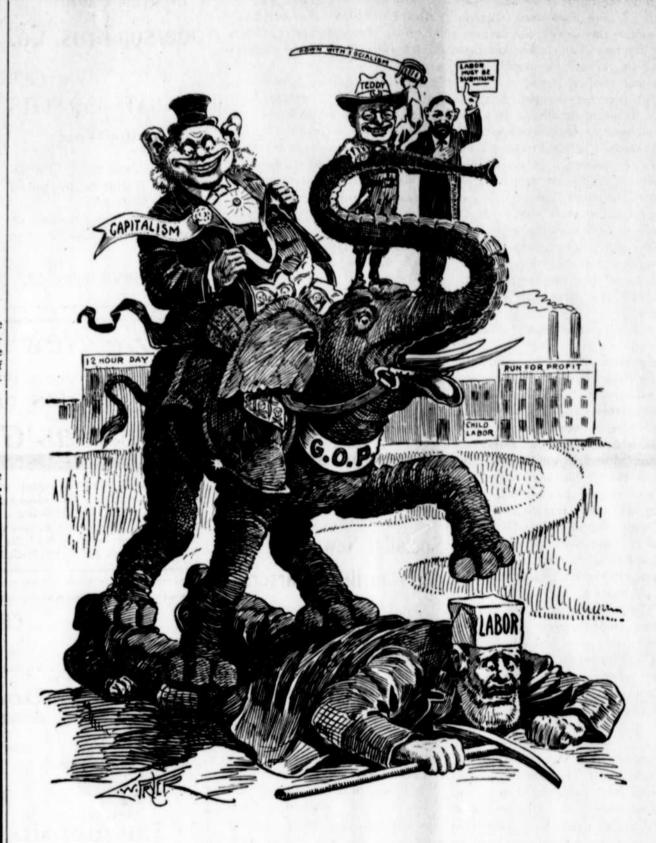
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Socialist National Platform=

the democratizing of the whole of society.

utterly false. They alike struggle for power to maintain and profit by the world, or the remaining sources of profit. an industrial system which can be preserved only by the complete overthrow of such liberties as we already have, and by the still further enslavement and degradation of labor.

Our American institutions came into the world in the name of freedom. They have been seized upon by the capitalist class as the humanity. means of rooting out the idea of freedom from among the people. Our state and national legislatures have become the mere agencies surplus goods which the people make, but are too poor to buy. They cal and intellectual misery as its portion. are gradually so invading and restricting the right of suffrage as to preparing to attack the liberty of the individual even to speak or the fact of the class conflict. think for himself or for the common good.

and literatures. By making these economically dependent upon itself, to its own interests.

Our political institutions are also being used as the destroyers of that individual property upon which all liberty and opportunity the guise of defending private property, capitalism is using our political institutions to make it impossible for the vast majority of human tions of our civilization. beings to ever become possessors of private property in the means of life.

Capitalism is the enemy and destroyer of essential private property. Its development is through the legalized confiscation of all that the labor of the working class produces, above its subsistence wage. The private ownership of the means of employment grounds society in an economic slavery which renders intellectual and political tyranny inevitable.

Socialism comes so to organize industry and society that every individual shall be secure in that private property in the means of life of capitalism upon the liberty of the individual.

development already accomplished, the interests of the world's work-

to the same level. The tendency of the competitive wage system is of inhering forces that will soon destroy them. We, the Socialist party, in convention assembled, make our ap- to make labor's lowest condition the measure or rule of its universal Into the midst of the strain and crisis of civilization, the Socialist peal to the American people as the defender and preserver of the idea condition. Industry and finance are no longer national, but interna- movement comes as the only saving or conservative force. If the of liberty and self-government, in which the nation was born; as the tional in both organization and results. The chief significance of world is to be saved from chaos, from universal disorder and misery, only political movement standing for the program and principles by national boundaries, and of so-called patriotisms which the ruling it must be by the union of the workers of all nations in the Socialist which the liberty of the individual may become a fact; as the only class of each nation is seeking to revive, is the power which these movement. The Socialist party comes with the only proposition or political organization that is democratic, and that has for its purpose give to capitalism to keep the workers of the world from uniting, and program for intelligently and deliberately organizing the nation for To this idea of liberty the republican and democratic parties are capitalist interests for the control of the yet unexploited markets of of man has ever been directed toward the conscious organization of

The Socialist movement, therefore, is a world movement. It

III.

The Socialist movement owes its birth and growth to that ecoof great propertied interests. These interests control the appoint- nomic development or world-process which is rapidly separating a ments and decisions of the judges of our courts. They have come working or producing class from a possessing or capitalist class. The into what is practically a private ownership of all the functions and class that produces nothing possesses labor's fruits, and the opporforces of government. They are using these to betray and conquer tunities and enjoyments these fruits afford, while the class that does foreign and weaker peoples, in order to establish new markets for the the world's real work has increasing economic uncertainty, and physi-

The fact that these two classes have not yet become fully contake unawares the right of the worker to a vote or voice in public scious of their distinction from each other, the fact that the lines of affairs. By enacting new and misinterpreting old laws, they are division and interest may not yet be clearly drawn, does not change

This class struggle is due to the private ownership of the means By controlling all the sources of social revenue, the possessing of employment, or the tools of production. Wherever and whenever of incomes, inheritances, and of franchise and land values, the proclass is able to silence what might be the voice of protest against man owned his own land and tools, and by them produced only the ceeds to be applied to public employment and bettering the condition the passing of liberty and the coming of tyranny. It completely con- things which he used, economic independence was possible. But of the workers; for the equal suffrage of men and women; for the trols the university and public schools, the pulpit and the press, arts production, or the making of goods, has long ceased to be individual. prevention of the use of the military against labor in the settlement of The labors of scores or even thousands, enters into almost every strikes; for the free administration of justice; for popular governit has brought all the forms of public teaching into servile submission article produced. Production is now social or collective. Practically ment, including initiative, referendum, proportional representation, seas or continents-working together for the same end. But this advantage for the workers that may be wrested from the capitalist co-operation in production is not for the direct use of the things made system, and that may relieve the suffering and strengthen the hands depend. The promise of economic independence to each man was by the workers who make them, but for the profit of the owners; and of labor. We lay upon every man elected to any executive or legisone of the faiths in which our institutions were founded. But under to this is due the present division of society into two distinct classes; lative office the first duty of striving to procure whatever is for the and from it has sprung all the miseries, inharmonies and contradic-

Between these two classes there can be no possible compromise powers of the worker. or identity of interests, any more than there can be peace in the midst of war, or light in the midst of darkness. A society based upon this to the one great end of the co-operative commonwealth. Such measclass division carries in itself the seeds of its own destruction. Such ures of relief as we may be able to force from capitalism are but a a society is founded in fundamental injustice. There can be no possible basis for social peace, for individual freedom, for mental and in order that they may thereby lay hold of the whole system of indusmoral harmony, except in the conscious and complete triumph of the try, and thus come into their rightful inheritance. working class as the only class that has the right or power to be.

the earth inevitably tends to drag down all the workers of the world that the institutions of capitalist society are passing under the power freedom from which will spring the freedom of the whole man.

to throw them against each other in the struggles of contending the common good of all its citizens. It is the first time that the mind

Socialism means that all those things upon which the people in knows of no conflicts between the workers of one nation and the common depend shall by the people in common be owned and adminworkers of another. It stands for the freedom of the workers of all istered. It means that the tools of employment shall be long to their nations; and, in so standing, it makes for the full freedom of all creators and users; that all production shall be for the direct use of the producers; that the making of goods for profit shall come to an end; that we shall all be workers together, and that opportunities shall be open and equal to all men.

To the end that the workers may seize every possible advantage that may strengthen them to gain complete control of the powers of government and thereby the sooner establish the co-operative commonwealth, the Socialist party pledges itself to watch and work in both the economic and the political struggle for each successive immediate interest of the working class; for shortened days of labor and increase of wages; for the insurance of the workers against accident, sickness and lack of employment; for pensions for aged and exhausted workers; for the public ownership of the means of transportation, communication and exchange; for the graduated taxation everything is made or done by many men-sometimes separated by and the recall of officers by their constituents; and for every gain or workers' most immediate interest, and for whatever will lessen the economic and political powers of the capitalist and increase the like

But, in so doing, we are using these remedial measures as means preparation of the workers to seize the whole powers of government,

To this end we pledge ourselves, as the party of the working class, to use all political power, as fast as it shall be intrusted to us The Socialist program is not a theory imposed upon society for by our fellow workers, both for their immediate interests and for upon which his liberty of being, thought and action depend. It comes its acceptance or rejection. It is but the interpretation of what is, their ultimate and complete emancipation. To this end we appeal to to rescue the people from the fast increasing and successful assault sooner or later, inevitable. Capitalism is already struggling to its all the workers of America, and to all who will lend their lives to destruction. It is no longer competent to organize or administer the the service of the workers in their struggle to gain their own, and to work of the world, or even to preserve itself. The captains of indus- all who will nobly and disinterestedly give their days and energies As an American Socialist party, we pledge our fidelity to the try are appalled at their own inability to control or direct the rapidly unto the workers' cause to cast their lot and faith with the Socialist principles of international Socialism, as embodied in the united socializing forces of industry. The so-called trust is but a sign and party. Our appeal for the trust and suffrages of our fellow workers thought and action of the Socialists of all nations. In the industrial form of this developing socialization of the world's work. The universal increase of the uncertainty of employment, the universal capi- freedom and blossoming of our common humanity. In pledging ourers are separated by no national boundaries. The condition of the talist determination to break down the unity of labor in the trades selves, and those we represent, to be faithful to the appeal which we most exploited and oppressed workers in the most remote places of unions, the widespread apprehensions of impending change, reveal make, we believe that we are but preparing the soil of the economic the earth inevitably tends to drag down all the most remote places of unions, the widespread apprehensions of impending change, reveal